## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| In the Application of:                  | ) CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY                     |
|---|---|
|   | ) EXPRESS MAIL                                  |
| Christopher Padgett; and                | )   |
| William B. Erb                          | ) EXPRESS MAIL NO.                              |
|   | ) EL 849 000 250 US                             |
| Serial No.                              | )   |
|   | ) I hereby certify that this correspondence is  |
| Filed: Herewith                         | ) being deposited with the United States Postal |
|   | ) Service as Express Mail Post Office to        |
| For: Method of Manufacturing a Hardhart | ) Addressee with sufficient postage on the date |
|   | ) indicate below and is addressed to            |
| Examiner: Not yet assigned              | ) Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450,      |
|   | ) Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.                    |
| Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned        |   |
|   | ) Am M. Ton                                     |
|   | ) / Joseph M. Butscher                          |
|   | ) / Reg. No. 48,326                             |
|   | ) Date: June 20, 2003                           |
|   |   |

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, it is respectfully requested that the following reference(s) be considered in the examination of the above-identified patent application:

USP 6,453,476 USP 6,446,270 USP 6,317,895 USP 6,298,498 USP 6,292,952 USP 6,260,212 USP 6,159,324 USP 6,154,889 USP 6,032,297 USP 5,898,949 USP 5,619,754 USP 5,609,802 USP 5,565,155 USP 5,319,808 USP 5,298,208 USP 5,150,479 USP 5,117,506 USP 5,044,016 USP 4,656,667 USP 4,615,438 USP 4,051,555 USP D431,328 USP D421,820 USP D420,771 USP D420,770

The above-identified reference(s) are listed on the attached PTO Form 1449 and copies are also enclosed herewith.

This submission, is in no way intended as an admission that the above-cited references constitute prior art under any subsection of 35 U.S.C. § 102. Applicant expressly retains the right to take any actions necessary to remove the above-cited references from the available prior art.

Consideration of the above-identified references in the examination of the present patent application is respectfully requested.

No fee is believed to be due because it is believed that this statement and enclosures are being filed before the first Office Action on the merits has been mailed by the PTO. The basis of this belief is that no Office Action on the merits appears to have been received by the undersigned to date. Please charge any fees due in connection with this statement to the deposit account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Ltd., Account No. 13-0017.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph M. Butscher-

Reg. No. 48,326

| Form PTO-1449<br>(Rev. 8-83) |           | EPARTMENT OF CO    |          |                   |       | ATTORNEY DOCKET<br>NO.  | SERIAL NO.                       |
|------------------------------|-----------|--------------------|----------|-------------------|-------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
|                              | MATION DI | ISCLOSURE CITATI   | ON       |                   |       | 14186US01               |                                  |
|                              |           |                    |          |                   |       | APPLICANT:              |                                  |
|                              |           |                    |          |                   |       | Padgett; Erb            |                                  |
|                              |           |                    |          |                   | _ 41  | FILING DATE<br>Herewith | GROUP<br>ART UNIT:               |
|                              |           | U.S. PATENT DO     | CUMENTS  |                   |       |                         |                                  |
| *EXAMINER<br>INITIAL         |           | DOCUMENT<br>NUMBER | DATE     | NAME              | CLASS | SUBCLASS                | FILING DATE<br>IF<br>APPROPRIATE |
|                              | 6         | 5,453,476          | 9/24/02  | Moore, III        |       |                         |                                  |
|                              | 6         | 5,446,270          | 9/10/02  | Durr              |       |                         |                                  |
|                              | 6         | 5,317,895          | 11/20/01 | Erth et al.       |       |                         |                                  |
|                              | 6         | 5,298,498          | 10/9/01  | Burns et al.      |       |                         |                                  |
|                              | 6         | 5,292,952          | 9/25/01  | Watters et al.    |       |                         |                                  |
|                              | 6         | 5,260,212          | 7/17/01  | Orotelli et al.   |       |                         |                                  |
|                              | 6         | 5,159,324          | 12/12/00 | Watters et al.    |       |                         |                                  |
|                              | 6         | 5,154,889          | 12/5/00  | Moore, III et al. |       |                         |                                  |
|                              | 6         | 5,032,297          | 3/7/00   | Barthold et al.   |       |                         |                                  |
|                              | 5         | 5,898,949          | 5/4/99   | Barthold et al.   |       |                         |                                  |
|                              | 5         | 5,619,754          | 4/15/97  | Thurwanger et al. |       |                         |                                  |
|                              | 5         | 5,609,802          | 3/11/97  | Jeng              |       |                         |                                  |
|                              | 5         | 5,565,155          | 10/15/96 | Cheng-Hung        |       |                         |                                  |
|                              | 5         | 5,319,808          | 6/14/94  | Bishop et al.     |       |                         |                                  |
|                              | 5         | 5,298,208          | 3/29/94  | Sibley et al.     |       |                         |                                  |
|                              | 5         | 5,150,479          | 9/29/92  | Oleson            |       |                         |                                  |
|                              | 5         | 5,117,506          | 6/2/92   | Byrnes et al.     |       |                         |                                  |
|                              | 5         | 5,044,016          | 9/3/91   | Coombs            |       |                         |                                  |
|                              | 4         | 1,656,667          | 4/14/87  | Blake             |       |                         |                                  |
|                              | 4         | 1,615,438          | 10/7/86  | Roseberg et al.   |       |                         |                                  |
|                              | 4         | 1,051,555          | 10/4/77  | Daly              |       |                         |                                  |
|                              | Г         | D431,328           | 9/26/00  | Tanner            |       |                         |                                  |
|                              | Г         | D421,820           | 3/21/00  | Johnson           |       |                         |                                  |
|                              | Г         | D420,771           | 2/15/00  | Burns             |       |                         |                                  |
|                              | Г         | D420,770           | 2/15/00  | Burns             |       |                         |                                  |

## **EXAMINER**

## DATE CONSIDERED

<sup>\*</sup>EXAMINER: Initial citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| DOCUMENT<br>NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION |    |
|--------------------|------|---------|-------|----------|-------------|----|
| <br>16             | J 12 |         |       |          | YES NO      | NO |
|                    |      |         |       |          |             |    |

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

|          | AA |                 |   |
|----------|----|-----------------|---|
|          | ВВ |                 | · |
|          | СС |                 |   |
| EXAMINER |    | DATE CONSIDERED |   |

\*EXAMINER: Initial citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.